

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRID 7912 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO EC
BRUSSELS DATED 17 DECEMBER 1974:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, SP

SUBJ: SPAIN-EC RELATIONS

REF: USEC BRUSSELS 9190

1. DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA AND OTHER OFFICIALS HERE INDICATE
LITTLE OR NO INTEREST AT THIS TIME IN RESUMING TRADE NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH EEC. FOLLOWING NOV 20-21 TALKS, SITUATION IS
SEEN AS A VIRTUAL STALEMATE. WHILE THERE IS SOME CONCERN
THAT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND OTHER MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES COULD PUT SPAIN AT COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE ON
CERTAIN PRODUCTS, THE SPANISH SEEM CONTENT TO TAKE THEIR
CHANCES RATHER THAN OPEN THEIR MARKET TO EC INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTS AT WHAT THEY CONSIDER A PRECIPITOUS RATE. THE
UNCERTAIN WORLD ECONOMIC PICTURE, WHICH IS AT LAST CLEARLY
BEGINNING TO BE FELT IN SPAIN, IS A FURTHER FACTOR MAKING
THE SPANISH CAUTIOUS ABOUT ANY MAJOR ECONOMIC VENTURES AT
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THIS TIME.

2. SPAIN RECOGNIZES THAT ABSENCE OF NEW AGREEMENT MAY HAVE SOME NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY TO UK, BUT CONSIDERS THESE UNLIKELY TO BE OF MAJOR CONSEQUENCES. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE NINE ARE WELL BELOW 40 PERCENT OF TOTAL SPANISH EXPORTS TO THOSE COUNTRIES, AND EVEN TO UK AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS COMPRISE LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL SPANISH EXPORTS TO THAT COUNTRY (\$133 MILLION OR 41 PERCENT FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1974). SPAIN'S AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO EC ARE ABOUT 17-18 PERCENT OF WORLDWIDE EXPORTS WHILE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO UK ARE AROUND 4 PERCENT OF WORLDWIDE EXPORTS. THESE MARKETS ARE IMPORTANT BUT ARE NOT ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL, AND IN ANY CASE THE SPANISH FEEL THAT FOR THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO AT LEAST, THE ABSENCE OF A NEW ACCORD WILL AFFECT THEIR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS ONLY marginally.

3. A FINAL FACTOR IN SPAIN'S WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE IS IMPLICIT IN THE UNCERTAIN DOMESTIC POLITICAL PICTURE HERE. THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR POLITICAL CHANGE COMING AT ANY TIME NO DOUBT HAS MANY OFFICIALS THINKING THERE MAY BE MUCH TO BE GAINED BY A DELAY OF PERHAPS 6 MONTHS TO A YEAR. A MORE LIBERAL SPANISH GOVERNMENT, SHOULD THERE BE ONE, WOULD, IT IS FELT, STAND TO GET A BETTER RECEPTION FROM THE EEC.
EATON UNQTE KISSINGER

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